

VZCZCXRO1576
RR RUEHIK
DE RUEHAH #0016/01 0061055
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 061055Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4013
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6078
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3771
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3630
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4320
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1377
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4256
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ASHGABAT 000016

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [SOI](#) [SMIG](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: A HARBINGER OF THE TOUGH CHOICE FOR
DUAL CITIZENS

REF: 09 ASHGABAT 1260

ASHGABAT 00000016 001.2 OF 002

11. (U) Sensitive but Unclassified. Not for Internet
distribution

12. (SBU) SUMMARY: In Turkmenistan, those affected
most by government efforts to eliminate dual
citizenship have been individuals holding both Turkmen
and Russian passports, currently being unable to
obtain new Turkmen passports (reftel). However, post
was recently contacted by an ethnic Turkmen, holding
only Russian citizenship, who alleged that he was
illegally dismissed from his job with a private
foreign company due to his lack of a foreign worker
labor permit. Unhappy with the Prosecutor General's
office's reply to his petition for redress, the
unemployed individual turned to the Embassy to request
contact information for international human rights and
media organizations. This fellow's situation could be
a harbinger of the difficulties for those who elect to
retain their Russian citizenship in 2013. END
SUMMARY.

13. (SBU) On December 31, 2009 the Embassy received
a letter from Saparmammed Nepeskuliyeu, an ethnic
Turkmen with Russian citizenship, who resides in
his hometown of Balkanabat in western Turkmenistan.
When he turned 16 years old, the age for obtaining
citizenship, he was living with a relative and
studying in Russia and was issued a Russian
passport. Upon his return to Turkmenistan, he
never received a Turkmen passport. In his
petition, Nepeskuliyeu complained that, being a
Russian citizen, he was now not allowed to work in
Turkmenistan, nor did he have the right to medical
insurance, a telephone and other social services.
In 2007, after a month of contractual employment,
Nepeskuliyeu was dismissed from his job as a cook's
assistant for a foreign company operating in

Balkanabat, because he was not able to provide a work permit from State Migration Service. Such a permit is required for foreigners to work in the country.

¶4. (SBU) Nepeskuliyev has since appealed to the office of Prosecutor General, Supreme Court of Turkmenistan, Russian Embassy, and Communist Party of the Russian Federation regarding his dismissal from work. Having investigated the case, the Prosecutor's Office responded to Nepeskuliyev that he had been employed without a foreign worker permit, thus violating Turkmenistan's legislation on foreign worker employment, and that he had been dismissed before the expiration of his contractual term of employment. On December 18, 2008 the Prosecutor's Office sent a notice to Nepeskuliyev's former employer requesting regarding both violations of law. The company responded to the Prosecutor's office that, if Nepeskuliyev wanted employment with the company again, he would need to provide a work permit from the Migration Service and his application would be considered. Because of his Russian citizenship, Nepeskuliyev also turned to the Russian Embassy but received no assistance. He expressed disappointment with the fact that "the Russian Embassy sold Russian citizens in Turkmenistan for gas".

¶5. (SBU) COMMENT: As a Russian citizen, albeit a "local" ethnic Turkmen, Nepeskuliyev mentioned nothing in his correspondence about applying for Turkmen citizenship to resolve his problem. While

ASHGABAT 00000016 002.2 OF 002

apparently he does not want to give up his Russian citizenship, it's unlikely that Turkmen authorities would issue him a Turkmen passport as long as he insists on maintaining Russian citizenship, despite his ethnic, birth, family and residence ties to Turkmenistan. Such problems will become widespread in 2013 when old passports expire if the government enforces its ban on dual citizenship. The attractiveness of Russian citizenship, apparent in the case of Nepeskuliyev, will likely be a factor for many people forced to make a choice, regardless of their ethnicity. END COMMENT

CURRAN